

will send my fathers copy in a box she is proposing to dispatch to Philadelphia.

I hope your visit to Washington is not entirely given up, but that we may still see you & Mrs. Gray here this month.

If I am able I have a plan of going to Washington soon, but the frightful cold which has kept me prisoner for a week has rather deranged my plans.

Perhaps we may meet there - but as yet nothing is settled.

Give my love to Mrs. Gray

Mr. James & the children are quite well - Fanny was talking about Torrey & Gray today, one would think she had been ~~fed~~ on botanical books from her earliest infancy. I hope you will find a few minutes from more pressing duties to answer my questions

believe me truly yours

Isabella James.

James

Philadelphia
Feb. 3^d 1865

My dear Dr. Gray

I received your letter some days ago, & should have answered it sooner, but a severe cold has kept me in my room for a week & part of the time in bed.

The moment I read your article, the story of the introduction of coffee ^{plants} into the West Indies came to my mind; but my memory which always fails me in regard to names would not recall the devotee of science who denied himself water to save his feet. I thought I could at once lay my hand on a book containing the anecdote but was disappointed in finding it - I then looked in various cyclopedias of useful knowledge under the word coffee but all in vain. Last evening Mr. Durand was here on a Phil. Com. & Mr. James read your article to see if he could supply

the missing link. You Mr D in whose ears the accents of his belle France still linger, understands only part of ~~a~~ conversation in English, and ~~thinking~~ the point of the story was to discover if Jussieu did bring the bedar in his hat, copied & took this trouble to translate a page from the "Jardin des Plantes" which you had already condensed into two lines. Fortunately with the paper he sent the book from which the extract was made, and I immediately turned to the account of the coffee tree & found our story related precisely as I remember reading it years ago. I have therefore translated it into your manuscript, you can work up the latter part with great effect, I did not venture any embroidery upon the words of the French writer. You will observe that the Edinburgh reviewer had two facts to build on, one of the Jussieus & the Jardin des plantes !!

I observe in that article the writer speaks of the *Wellingtonia gigantea*. I thought botanists had decided to call it the Sequoia. where can I find any detailed account of that tree? How did you conclude those giants to be? I remember at the time a section of one was exhibited here, that you & Mr. James had some correspondence on the subject. As "one good turn deserves another" I wish you to give me some help for an article I am preparing on trees; where shall I find some account of the size & age of various historic trees? if I had your article in the North Am. Rev. on trees it would be a help, for I know you there give the dimensions of the Washington elm & many other famous trees. have you a copy of it unbound that you could send me. If not will you let my mother know the volume & year it was published & she